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DCI/CTS 79-1463

10 April 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/DCI/CT

VIA: EO/CTS

FROM:

[Redacted]

STAT

AD/TAO/CT

SUBJECT: TAO Responses to HPSCI Questions 4 and 5

The responses to subject questions are attached.

[Redacted]

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Attachment:
Responses

Question 4: What are the procedures used for assuring priorities as established in DCID 1/2 are consistent with those set forth in the NITs?

Response:

The Basic Long-Term NITs and the DCID 1/2 use the same numerical priority ranking system, although the NITs are very general and the DCID 1/2 topics are relatively fine-grained. To ensure that the DCID 1/2 priorities are consistent with the NITs, over the past several months, the interagency DCID 1/2 Committee reviewed all DCID 1/2 country topics and matched them to corresponding NITs and, after coordination with the analytical community, adjusted DCID 1/2 priorities to achieve consistency with the appropriate NIT guideline priority. This was done in conjunction with the annual review of DCID 1/2 priorities. Consideration is being given to accomplishing this revision of DCID 1/2 priorities in the future on an ad hoc basis immediately following the issuance of a new set of Basic Long-Term NITs.

Question 5. Can you show how the NITs and DCID 1/2 are effective in prioritizing collection requirements, or are the prerogatives of the collection asset manager the principal factor affecting tasking priorities?

Response:

There are practical limits to how finely intelligence collection activities can be tuned in response to NITs and DCID 1/2 priorities. This is because intelligence collection systems--human or technical--are directed, in the first instance, at targets. These targets in turn yield information, typically on multiple problems, and not all that is needed on any one problem. The potential yield of a particular target system usually does not neatly match the generic requirements categories of the DCID 1/2 priorities document or the requirements statements of a current NIT. Moreover, requirements priorities systems can be applied to collection planning and programming only in conjunction with other essential considerations, such as:

- (1) The adequacy of information and intelligence already available,
- (2) The feasible means of acquiring or producing needed additional intelligence,
- (3) The level of effectiveness of current resources, and
- (4) The expected impact of more or fewer resources.

This having been said, it is a fact that tasking by each of the collection disciplines now includes explicit consideration of NITs and DCID 1/2 priorities as standing policy and as part of the mechanics of the tasking process. These priorities undoubtedly are the most important factors affecting the direction and emphasis of collection tasking.

The actual measurement and demonstration of the effectiveness of collection requirement priorities with some precision is difficult. It cannot be done solely in terms of resources expended on collection because there is no direct relation between the importance of information required and the cost to acquire it. Nor can it be done in terms of the volume of data collected, because there is no close relationship between the importance of information required and its volume. It probably can best be done by relating collection priorities to intelligence consumer satisfaction and effective policy support rendered. The Tasking Architecture Office of the Collection Tasking Staff is establishing a permanent survey system to analyze this relationship as part of its function.